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Daylight Savings Issue

March 6, 2008

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City Council Looks to Declare Green Week April 21-25



The [City Council](#) is poised to officially recognize the week of Earth Day and Arbor Day, April 21-25, as "Green Week" in Yonkers.

We are calling for community-based organizations, schools, government and non-governmental agencies, and others to host events and

activities designed to educate our community about preserving and sustaining the natural environment that exists in Yonkers through thoughtful stewardship of our resources.

In the past 12 months since the City Council unanimously adopted a resolution endorsing the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement as amended by the 73rd annual [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) meeting, we have:

1. Created a [Green Policy Task Force](#) (GPTF) to find and assess a wide range of different pro-environment policies to eventually be implemented by the City of Yonkers. (The task force has already met more than 25 times and is providing valuable guidance to the City Council.)
2. Created and funded the position for a Green Policy Coordinator, currently titled "[Manager, Environmental and Sustainable Development](#)."
3. Made a permanent [seasonal ban](#) on gas- powered leaf blowers.
4. Assisted the Board of Education with the exploration of funding possibilities to retrofit school buses and to increase

awareness about anti-idling laws.

5. Became official members of [ICLEI](#): Local Governments for Sustainability and received training on Climate Action Climate Protection software to process and obtain Yonkers-specific data on the City of Yonkers' "Carbon Footprint" in order to implement an appropriate and effective Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan for the City of Yonkers.

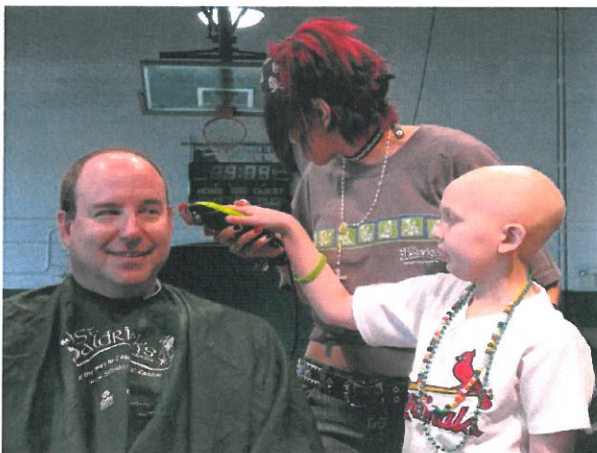
6. Created a new City Council Committee for Environmental Policy and Protection.

We are currently compiling a calendar of all eco-events and activities for distribution throughout Yonkers and neighboring towns.

Please submit your plans for inclusion and/or contact Samantha Wapnick, GPTF coordinator, for ideas at Samantha.wapnick@yonkersny.gov or by calling her at 914-377-6060.

In county-wide green news, the Westchester Global Warming Action Plan 2008 was recently unveiled, providing steps for reducing carbon footprints. Check out their new [website](#).

Help Cure Childhood Cancer



Sunday not only marked Yonkers 53rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, but also the day that a few dozen Yonkers police officers, students and I shaved our heads to raise money for a childhood cancer charity.

When the little girl in the photo asked if she could be the one to shave my head, I told her I would be honored. (The transformation took little time, as I already had a head start.)

My goal is to raise \$1,000. While I get closer to that number every day, I still

need pledges, big or small. Please contact me if you care to help.

To learn more about the charity, click here on [St. Baldrick's Foundation](#), the world's largest volunteer fundraising event for childhood cancer research. You can also check out the Journal News [article](#).

Read Across America

I had the pleasure of participating in the National Education Association's ["Read Across America Day"](#) at School 23 this week. The day brings reading excitement to children of all ages and is something I look forward to each year.



Last year, we read Dr. Martin Luther King's [Letter from Birmingham Jail](#). They were so enthralled by the history lesson of King being jailed for leading anti-segregation protests in Birmingham and hearing the resulting letter arguing that individuals have the moral duty to disobey unjust laws that I chose to do a similar theme of persecution this year.

We read and discussed "The Perils of Indifference," an essay that Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel delivered about the dangers about the indifferent nature of the world to the Nazi death camps of the 1930s and '40s and sometimes different response of the world community to genocide in Kosovo or in the Sudan.

We discussed how his struggle to come to terms with his own personal experience of "total humiliation and of the utter contempt for humanity shown in Hitler's death camps," as well as how his practical work in the cause of peace empowered him to deliver a strong message of "peace, atonement and human dignity" to humanity.

The students came away with a greater understanding of the importance of involvement in the world community.

Click [here](#) to read his speech that was delivered at the White House on April 12, 1999.

Read Across America continues all month. People who wish to join the program can participate on Wednesday, March 12th at Montessori School 11, by contacting the school directly at 376-8433.

Tired of Paying Rent?



This is good news for first time home buyers.

There's an Affordable Housing Expo being held Saturday, March 8, 2008 at the Westchester County Center (Tarrytown Rd. and Central Ave.) in White Plains from 10 to 3 p.m.

The 12th annual Expo is directed toward first time homebuyers and those experiencing difficulties with mortgage payments. It will feature exhibits from vendors as well as workshops covering the following topics:

- How to Qualify for a Mortgage
- Credit and Mortgage Counseling Programs
- Supporting and Finding Affordable Housing in Your Communities
- Special Incentives for First Time Homebuyers
- How to Maintain and Keep Your Home

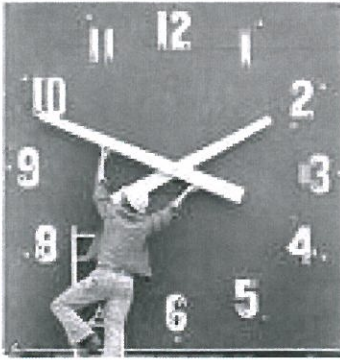
The Expo is sponsored by the Westchester Interfaith Housing Corp. in cooperation with Housing Action Council and Westchester Residential Opportunities, two leading not-for-profit home ownership counseling agencies in the county on whose boards I used to sit.

It is financially supported by private, non-profit and government institutions including the Chase Bank, HSBC, Citibank, Wachovia, Washington Mutual Home Loans, M & T Bank, Westchester County Board of Realtors, Westchester County and the Business Council of Westchester.

Questions? Contact the [Housing Action Council](#) at 914-332-4144 or [Westchester Residential](#)

[Opportunities](#) at 914-428-4507 x.314.

Reset Your Clock on March 9th



If you're like me, you usually forget to reset the clock for Daylight Savings. Thankfully, the digital age usually does it for you.

Nothing will, however, change your smoke detector batteries for you. This is why I urge people to use this day as a reminder to check your batteries.

So on March 9, clocks are set ahead one hour officially at 2:00 a.m. local standard time, which becomes 3:00 a.m. local daylight time.

Confused? Remember "Spring (set your clock ahead) ahead, Fall (set your clock back) back."

Save the Dates

Two events will soon be held at [Philipse Manor Hall](#) in Yonkers.

The first is a two-session human trafficking awareness event in connection with their current exhibit, "Slavery: The Great and Foul Stain." It takes place Sunday, March 9 from 2-4 p.m. and Sunday, March 30 from 2-4 p.m. The first session will introduce human trafficking with a film and description of the book "Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy." The second session will be the forum for a guided discussion of "Disposable People" and modern slavery. The three weeks between these sessions are to allow participants to locate and read "Disposable People" which may be obtained at your local library or purchased at www.freetheslaves.net



The second event, "How to be a Curator," is a great way for those interested in the dynamics of museums and exhibitions to take a behind-the-scenes look at the job of a curator. The tour will be held over two weekends, March 14 - 16 and March 21-22 at 11 a.m and 4 p.m. daily.

For further information, please call (914) 965-4027.

Mary Hotte Community Service Awards



The 5th annual Mary Hotte community service awards will be held on May 15, 2008 at 2 p.m. in The Ceremonial Court Room at Yonkers City Hall.

If you would like to nominate someone, please note the person must be a Yonkers resident 55 or

older who has been volunteering for at least three years and who has never received formal recognition for their volunteer service by another agency

Last year, five community members received recognition for volunteering in time of community crisis, changing the lives of children, and working to improve intergenerational communication. They were Barbara Bellamy, Mary Capobianco, Gloria DeLucey, Jim Howard, and Margaret Jessup.

Yonkers 55 plus is accepting nominations for local businesses that go the extra mile to help older adults and/or retains and hires older workers for this year's Yonkers Elder Friendly Business Award. Recipients will be honored at a Yonkers Chamber of Commerce event in May.

There were two winners last year. Life Cleaners for providing free pick-up and delivery and a discount rate for seniors, in addition to cleaning the clothes of fire victims in The Hollow and for cleaning the City's Santa suit every year. And Westchester Cleaning Services who helps the Family Service Society of Yonkers clean necessary homes and has in turn prevented more than 20 evictions.

If you would like a nomination form for either, please e- mail yonkers55plus@yahoo.com.

Please note that we are looking for residents 55 and older to serve on a city-wide senior council that will include three appointees by the City Council (by the Majority Leader, Minority Leader and Council President) and three seniors appointed by the Mayor.

If you are interested in serving, please send me your resume or a letter of interest at Chuck.lesnick@yonkersny.gov

Ready to Volunteer?

Are you looking to reconnect with your passions and make a difference in your community?

Come to Dunwoodie Golf Club on March 13 from 5-7 p.m. to connect with representatives from the non- profit community to find fulfilling volunteer opportunities.

Hosted by United Way, The Volunteer Center of United Way, 55 Plus, Helen Andrus Benedict Foundation, AARP and the Corporation for National & Community Service.

To register, please call 914-948-4452 or email Gayle@volunter-center.org



email: chuck.lesnick@yonkersny.gov

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